

Vermont's Response to NASCIO GIS Questions

Vermont Enterprise GIS Consortium (EGC)

Final - 5/27/2011



The following questions were circulated by NASCIO representatives. Vermont's Enterprise GIS Consortium (EGC) has drafted a response to these questions (below).

--- ORIGINAL EMAIL -----

State CIOs and Members,

NASCIO has received the following inquiry from the Information Technology Division of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on funding GIS programs:

1. How does your state fund their GIS programs?

EGC Response: GIS budgeting occurs at varying levels depending on the organization. Funding occurs at the program level as well as line items in Agency level budgets or a combination of the two depending on a particular project. Some agencies have used one-time funding to establish their GIS capacity, but have not secured consistent and continuing data and maintenance support in their budgets. Where Federal dollars are used to supplement GIS budgets, this support may be conditioned upon broad distribution of data while other federal agency financial support is conditioned upon restricting the sharing of GIS data and resources.

2. Is your state recovering the GIS operating costs through charge-back, cost-share or other means? Does your state have fees for GIS services or plan to do this?

EGC Response: The State's IT office (Department of Information and Innovation) does not offer GIS services to agencies and departments, therefore their charge-backs are limited to core IT support. Some agencies and departments recover a portion of their GIS operating costs through charge-backs for software maintenance, software purchasing or projects (versus daily "task" work).

There is some cost-sharing between agencies for certain application specific solutions (eg: Geocortex IMF server, ANR/ACCD cost-share, VCGI hosting). At this time, the State does not have a plan to implement government-wide charge-backs for GIS services. However, the Enterprise GIS Consortium (EGC) has a work group looking into the possibility of deploying shared GIS assets (servers & software) at the State's Data Center, which if implemented may lead to some type of charge-back or cost-share mechanism.

3. Massachusetts is also interested in any information regarding which organizational structure is best to effectively manage and support the GIS environment. Information related to the number of customers and the resources needed to support such an environment would be greatly appreciated.

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EGC Response: Vermont drafted and adopted an Enterprise GIS Strategic Plan in 2008, which led to the formation of the State's Enterprise GIS Consortium (EGC). The EGC is a voluntary consortium of state government agencies focused on effective management and use of State's Enterprise Geographic Information System (GIS).

The EGC supports the ongoing implementation and management of the State's Enterprise Geographic Information System (GIS). This support is guided by the vision and goals articulated in the Enterprise GIS Strategic Plan. The Plan aims to establish a dynamic Enterprise GIS framework within state government which:

- Promotes and leverages efficient use of the state's Geographic Information Technology (GIT) resources;
- Recognizes opportunity through coordination and resource sharing;
- Promotes quality and consistency through standardization;
- Addresses data access needs;
- Enhances the effectiveness of GIS services and solutions; and
- Improves decision making throughout state government.

To date the EGC has made progress in a number of areas including

- Recruitment of nearly all major agencies and departments as members of the EGC.
- Establishment and implementation of a formal Data Exchange Protocol.
- Creation of a Enterprise GIS Portal using MS SharePoint.
- Development and deployment of Enterprise GIS services, including geocoding and imagery services.
- Pre-qualified list of GIS vendors for services under \$150,000.